

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A disposable paper diaper formed from paper mulch for combating diaper rash, said diaper comprising a plurality of dark-brown fibers, wherein said fibers are coated with an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal ~~Cu⁺⁺-cationic~~, water-insoluble form of copper oxide directly bound to the fibers, which fibers have been added to said paper mulch and which fibers release Cu⁺⁺ ions ~~in-cationic form~~ when in contact with a fluid.
2. (original) A disposable paper diaper for combating diaper rash according to claim 1 wherein said fibers are cellulosic fibers.
3. (original) A disposable paper diaper for combating diaper rash according to claim 1 wherein said coated fibers are disposed in said diaper as randomly scattered fibers in a paper layer.
4. (original) A disposable paper diaper for combating diaper rash according to claim 1 wherein said coated fibers are dispersed in a paper layer positioned in said diaper to rest against the skin of the user.
5. (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of a disposable paper diaper formed from paper mulch for combating diaper rash comprising incorporating into said paper mulch a plurality of dark-brown fibers coated with an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal ~~Cu⁺⁺-cationic~~, water-insoluble form of copper oxide directly bound to the fibers, which fibers release Cu⁺⁺ ~~in-cationic form~~ ions when in contact with a fluid, said fibers being provided in an inner layer of said disposable diaper formed from said mulch.
6. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said fibers are cellulosic fibers.

7. (currently amended) A disposable diaper liner formed from paper mulch for combating diaper rash, said diaper liner comprising a plurality of fibers of claim 1 ~~coated with an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal, Cu^{++} -cationic, water-insoluble form of copper, which fibers release Cu^{++} in cationic form when in contact with a fluid.~~

8. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the fibers are finely chopped before addition to said paper mulch.